

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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USEEC

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ETRD, TU, UR
SUBJECT: TURKISH-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION

REF: 77 ANKARA 9397 (NOTAL)

1. ON JANUARY 25 EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON TURKISH EMBASSY
COUNSELOR MURAT BILHAN TO DISCUSS SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF
TURKISH-SOVIET JOINT ECONOMIC COOPERATION COMMITTEE. INFORMATION
FURNISHED BY BILHAN DIFFERS IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THAT IN REFTL.
WHILE HE CONFIRMED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON ISEKENDERUN
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STEEL MILL ENLARGEMENT, SEYDISEHER ALUMINUM PLANT ENLARGEMENT,
HYDROGEN PEROXIDE PLANT AT BANDIRMA, TRAINING CENTER AT
ISKENDERUN AND HOPA-BATUMI POWER LINE, HE SAID THAT SOME
PROJECTS WERE STILL "UNDER CONSIDERATION:" THERMAL POWER
PLANTS AT ORPHANELI AND CAN; AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES PLANT;
REFRACTORY MATERIALS PLANT AT ISKENDERUN; CATYLIZER FOR
IZMIR REFINERY; CONSTRUCTION OF A BLACK SEA REFINERY.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WAS GAINED ON COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS. PROPOSAL WAS MADE TO BUILD DAM AND HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATION ON KAVSAK-CATALON-KIRIZILI, AND THIS IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED. AGREEMENT HAS ALSO BEEN REACHED, BUT NOT YET SIGNED, TO SEND A NUMBER OF SOVIET ELECTRICAL ENERGY EXPERTS TO TURKEY. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED TO SIGN SOON A PROTOCOL ON REDEMARCATION OF BORDER NECESSITATED BY ARPACAY DAM LAKE.

3. COMMENT: BILHAN GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE EXPECTED THAT PROJECTS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION WILL BECOME REALITY. GROWTH IN SOVIET-TURKISH ECONOMIC COOPERATION, WHILE PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO EXPLOIT TURKEY'S DISAPPOINTMENT WITH NATO, ALLIES, IS CONSISTENT WITH APPARENT SOVIET POLICY OF CONCENTRATING ECONOMIC AID ON COUNTRIES ON SOUTHERN PERIMETER OF SOVIET UNION. IN FACT, BILHAN WAS QUICKLY TO POINT OUT THAT SOVIET AID TO TURKEY WAS STILL MUCH BELOW THAT EXTENDED TO IRAN. MATLOCK

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